

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**FILED**

FEB 11 2008



**CENTRAL DIVISION**

\*\*\*\*\*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CR. 07-30056(02)

Plaintiff,

-VS-

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION  
ON DEFENDANT'S CHANGE OF PLEA  
AND ORDER OF DETENTION

JOSEPH BECHTOLD,

Defendant.

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This matter came on before the Court for a change of plea hearing on Thursday, February 7, 2008. Defendant, Joseph Bechtold, appeared in person and by his counsel, Terry L. Pechota, while Plaintiff, United States of America ("Government") appeared through Jeremy R. Jehangiri, an Assistant United States Attorney.

Defendant consented in open court to the change of plea before the Court and his consent was knowingly and voluntarily made. The Government also consented to the Court taking Defendant's plea.

Defendant has reached a plea agreement with the Government wherein he intends to plead guilty to Count I as contained in the Indictment. Defendant is charged in Count I of the Indictment with Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§841(a)(1) and 846. At the hearing, Defendant was advised of the nature of the charge to which he would plead guilty and the maximum penalty applicable, specifically: 20 years custody; \$1,000,000 fine, or both; three

(3) years supervised release; two (2) additional years imprisonment if supervised release is revoked; \$100 assessment; and restitution .

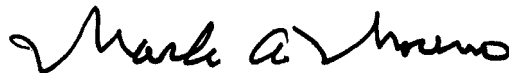
Upon questioning Defendant personally in open court, it is the finding of the Court that Defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea, that he is aware of the nature of the charged offense and the consequences of the plea, and that his plea of guilty to the offense contained in Count I of the Indictment is a knowing and voluntary plea supported by an independent basis in fact containing each of the essential elements of the offense. It is, therefore, the Court's recommendation that the guilty plea to Count I of the Indictment be accepted and that Defendant be adjudged guilty of that offense.

**NOTICE TO PARTIES**

The parties have ten (10) days after service of this Report and Recommendation to file written objections pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(b)(1), unless an extension of time for good cause is obtained. Failure to file timely objections will result in the waiver of the right to appeal questions of fact. Objections must be timely and specific in order to require de novo review by the District Court.

Dated this 7th day of February, 2008, at Pierre, South Dakota.

**BY THE COURT:**




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**MARK A. MORENO**  
**UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

**ATTEST:**

**JOSEPH HAAS, CLERK**

**BY:**



**Deputy**

**(SEAL)**